



New Life International Fellowship
December 24th, 2017

Prayer – God's Blessing Plan

PRAYER GUIDE

A. Prayer Session One on Genesis 12:2

- 1) Thanksgiving and Praise
- 2) Intercession and Petition

B. Prayer Session Two on Confession of Daniel 9

- 1) Reading Daniel 9:4-16
- 2) Confessing the sins of our respective nations and churches.
- 3) Reading Daniel 9:17-19
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C. Prayer Session Three on Genesis 12:3

- 1) Prayer for Others
- 2) Sharing & Blessing Others

Incarnation of Truth

Christmas is the celebration and commemoration of Jesus' first coming to execute God's plan for the salvation of the fallen humanity. By the term 'incarnation' we mean that Jesus is the God who became flesh and dwelt among us (John. 1:14 *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth"* - ESV). In other words, He is the embodiment of that truth of God's plan for human beings. Jesus is full of grace and full of truth, even as He faithfully accomplished God's plan by being born as a man, living a sinless life, dying and rising again from the dead for the sin and salvation of the world.

For those who have received Jesus Christ and have been saved, we have this gospel of God's plan to share and embody in real lives today. God spells out His plan for us clearly in His promise to Abraham (Genesis 12:2-3 *"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you"* - NIV).

This important promise of God has two main parts: the **Top line** (*"I will bless you"*) and the **Bottom line** (*"All peoples on earth will be blessed through you"*). The Top line has to do with us individually, our families, the same ethnic people, whereas the Bottom line is about other people outside our own ethnic group. Don Richard has distinguished the two parts and finds 395 allusions in the New Testament to this Abrahamic Covenant.

Today, we also find ourselves in that blessing plan of God, even as we are counting our blessings and blessing others in Christ's name. We do so in corporate prayers to God.

A. Prayer Session One on Genesis 12:2

"I will bless you..." (v.2). Let us divide ourselves into groups of 4 or 5 for a Top line prayer first.

- 1) Thanksgiving and Praise
 - a. For our salvation
 - b. For our countless blessings
 - c. For God's unfailing love and mercy

- 2) Intercession and Petition
 - a. For ourselves and families
 - b. For our churches
 - c. For our own people (tribe or nation)
 - d. For their personal growth, salvation, needs, unity and peace, etc.



B. Prayer Session Two on Confession of Daniel 9

1) Reading Daniel 9:4-19

Confession of sin is always an important part of prayer, especially of the corporate or national prayer. By this we mean to seriously examine our hearts and life history in the light of God's revealed will and written word.

Now, we will look at what's in Daniel's prayer of confession in his nation's behalf.

Shall we read responsively: Daniel 9:4-16

⁴ *I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed:*

"O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with all who love him and obey his commands,⁵ we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws.

⁶ We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.

⁷ "Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame--the men of Judah and people of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered us because of our unfaithfulness to you. ⁸ O LORD, we and our kings, our princes and our fathers are covered with shame because we have sinned against you.

⁹ The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him; ¹⁰ we have not obeyed the LORD our God or kept the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets. ¹¹ All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you.

"Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you. ¹² You have fulfilled the words spoken against us and against our rulers by bringing upon us great disaster. Under the whole heaven nothing has ever been done like what has been done to Jerusalem.

¹³ Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us, yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth. ¹⁴ The LORD did not hesitate to bring the disaster upon us, for the LORD our God is righteous in everything he does; yet we have not obeyed him.

¹⁵ "Now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day, we have sinned, we have done wrong.

¹⁶ O Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill. Our sins and the iniquities of our fathers have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around us.

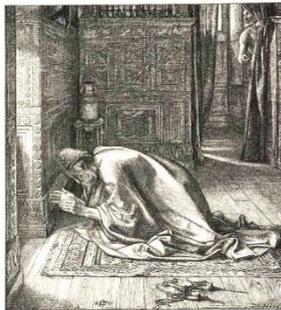
- 2) Let's confess the sins of our respective nations and churches.

With our confession rising before God, now let us remind ourselves of God's wonderful grace and mercy, His unfailing love, goodness and faithfulness. God always has open welcoming arms for His children when they come back to Him out of a contrite heart and repent. So it is written in 1 John 1:9 – *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

Shall we all read together – Daniel 9:17-19

¹⁷ *"Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, O Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary. ¹⁸ Give ear, O God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. ¹⁹ O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name."*

- 3) Let's ask for God's great forgiveness and commit our lives to Him.
- 4) Let's surrender and submit ourselves to His lordship.



C. Prayer Session Three on Genesis 12:3

"...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you"

(v.3). Our God is the God of ALL nations. He wants to bless people of all nations, and He has been doing so through His people. We humans have this problem of ethnocentric mindset – we love ourselves and people of our own tribe while we hate those of different ethnicity. This problem is best illustrated in the life of Prophet Jonah who was eager to see the people of Nineveh suffer God's punishment but was unhappy to see them forgiven and saved. That rightly pictures the human heart condition, and even a sad truth is that the same is true of God's people then and now; we may not be so different. However, God is calling us to align ourselves with His heart and to make His mission our mandate.

"...God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles." (Acts 15:14) The original Greek word for Gentiles here is *ethne*, translated literally as 'nations' or 'ethnic peoples'.

The Global statistics world population a few years ago showed 11% Dedicated Christians, 22% Nominal Christians, 27% Reached Non-Christians, and 40% Unreached Non-Christians. In Myanmar 49 out of the total 153 ethnic people groups are still unreached or the leased-reached groups, who make up over 45 million people.

1) Prayer for Others

- a. Bless and pray for people of other faiths (the Least Reached People groups)
- b. Divide ourselves into 4 groups: Group 1 will pray for Buddhists, Group 2 for Hindus, Group 3 for Muslims, Group 4 for Animists and Atheists. We pray in pairs within each group.

2) Sharing & Blessing Others

- a. Share within the groups about the ways you can bless people of other faith and bring Christ to them.
- b. Just bless them in Christ's name. (Mention to God some individual names)

